

CONSUMER PROTECTION and GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
of the  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Consumer Protection and Government Operation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on June 20, 2002.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Cameron Alden - Chairman  
Legislator Lynne Nowick - Vice-Chair  
Legislator William Lindsay  
Legislator Martin Haley

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Allan Binder

ALSO PRESENT:

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature  
Charles Gardner - Director of Consumer Affairs  
Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator Nowick  
Warren Green - Aide to Legislator Alden  
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office  
Meghan O'Reilly - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna  
Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Barrett - Court Stenographer

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(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:33 A.M.\*)

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Good morning, and welcome to the Consumer Protection Committee Meeting. I think we'll start with the Pledge as led by Legislator Haley.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

We don't have any cards, so I think we'll start with Mr. Gardner. If he can give a quick update.

MR. GARDNER:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Good morning, Charlie.

MR. GARDNER:

I left a copy for the committee of the latest gasoline and fuel oil prices. I also included, just for information purposes, a read out of the weekly retail prices. It gives around the country and the East Coast just so you can a little bit of a picture on it. It's not just from here. And other than that, I just have -- if there's any questions on the two pieces of legislation that are on the agenda.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. Just -- Charlie, on the gasoline, are we seeing any -- any diminishing of the stock piles for gasoline that would trigger maybe another spike, gasoline spike in price?

MR. GARDNER:

The only thing on the latest sites on the web, the only thing is the -- that they keep mentioning is the unease over what's going on, whether or not they get the guy or don't get the guy. You know who I'm talking about.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

So it's just really nerves as far as --

MR. GARDNER:

Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

It's not really an issue with lesser stocks or anything like that?

MR. GARDNER:

No. No.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. All right. If you'll just stay up here, then we can go through the agenda pretty quickly, then if there's a question on any of these things. Okay.

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#### TABLED RESOLUTIONS

1681-2002. Adopting a Local Law No. -2002, a Local Law to amend process server licensure enforcement and applicability provisions.  
(COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. The first thing we've got here is a tabled resolution, 1681.

MR. GARDNER:

We left off at the last committee that, I believe, there was a consensus that we would let this legislation go through because it at least changes the effective date to next year. There were some items that individuals Legislators and also the office had some concerns over, but everybody was comfortable with at least delaying the effective enforcement date and then the items of concern could then be addressed. We would have time to do that.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. And if we do nothing, then the law goes into effect in July or August?

MR. GARDNER:

Yes. July 1st.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. I'm going to -- motion by Legislator Nowick, seconded by Legislator Haley. All those in favor? Opposed? All right. We're passing 1681 out. APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1) (Not Present; Leg. Binder)

All right. So that's passed out with the understanding though that we're going to have a debate as far as there's three, four, five provisions in there that really need to be changed. Either after we pass the law or prior to, we can do some of the amending on --

MR. GARDNER:

That's correct. Just so long as it's on the record that individual Legislators and the office have some concern other certain provisions that can be amended, deleted, added, whatever. But the key thing is the delaying of the effective date, that's fine, then we can work on those items of concern.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

With the committee's permission, what I'll do at the next General Session is just put on the record why we passed it out, and I'll -- I won't enumerate all the different things that have to be worked on, but I will say that there's a number of Legislators, also the Director of Consumer Affairs has indicated -- you're Commissioner or Director?

MR. GARDNER:

Director.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

The Director of Consumer Affairs has a few problems with it that can be fixed in the future as long as the date of implementation is delayed. And that's the main reason why this would be passed.

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MR. GARDNER:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Good.

#### INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1696-2002. Adopting Local Law No. -2002, a Local Law to toughen fines for item pricing violations within Suffolk County. (ALDEN)

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

All right. We'll go on to legislation 1696. This has to be tabled for a public hearing. And what I've done also is I've circulated a letter from the Food Industry Alliance of New York State, and they've indicated that they are not in complete agreement with this law. And what I'll do is --

MR. GARDNER:

May have I copy of that, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Yeah. I'll get you a copy, and I'll also get you a copy for the record. They were not able to attend today's meeting, which is really not that important, because it has to be tabled for the public session. But in their letter they state that they will be able to

make the Tuesday General Session.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Once we table it here, then we'll schedule a public hearing. Meghan, you take care of that, right, usually?

MS. O'REILLY:

No. But I'll ask who does that, I'm is not sure.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The public hearing hasn't been scheduled yet?

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

No.

MS. O'REILLY:

I thought it was for Tuesday.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

It might be, but we have to table it for that public hearing.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Right. But I believe it's on the agenda for Tuesday, if I'm not mistaken.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

So I'll make a motion to table it, seconded by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? This is tabled for a public hearing.

TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1) (Not Present; Leg. Binder)

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#### TABLED SENSE RESOLUTIONS

SENSE 33-2002. Memorializing Resolution requesting the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to step up to the plate and protect Long Island baseball fans by bringing New York Yankee games to Cablevision's basic service package. (ALDEN)

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

We have one other resolution, and that's a tabled Sense Resolution. I'm going to make a motion to table that, seconded by Legislator Haley. All in favor? Opposed? That Sense Resolution is TABLED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1) (Not Present; Leg. Binder)

Is there anybody else who wanted to address the committee on any items? If not, motion by Legislator Haley, seconded by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor to adjourn? Okay. We stand adjourned. Thank you.

(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:38 A.M.\*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY

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